

Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EB-08 SP-02 NSCE-00 OMB-01 ISO-00 SSO-00
ONY-00 /026 R

BT
DRAFTED BY: IO:CRFRANK
APPROVED BY: IO:CWMAYNES
DESIRED DIST: IO, EB, S/P, NSC, OMB ONLY
-----113513 130341Z /73
O 122205Z NOV 77 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ROME NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

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FOR AMBASSADOR YOUNG ONLY FROM BILL MAYNES

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: OCON, FAO

SUBJECT: FAO MCDONGALL LECTURE

REF: USUN 4585

1. WE ARE SENDING FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION A REDRAFT OF
THE TEXT RECEIVED REFTTEL. WHILE MAINTAINING THE TONE
AND THRUST OF THE FIRST TEXT, WE HAVE TRIED TO TIGHTEN
IT UP AND FOCUS IT MORE DIRECTLY ON THE SOCIAL AND
ECONOMIC QUESTIONS WHICH ARE YOUR THEMES. WE HAVE
MELEDED IN SLIGHTLY MORE ATTENTION TO THE ROLE OF
MULTILATERAL INSTITUTIONS IN DEFERENCE TO YOUR HOSTS.
WE HAVE ALSO SUGGESTED A DIFFERENT APPROACH TO THE
FOOD CORPS CONCEPT WHICH BRINGS OUT THE VOLUNTEER
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CONCEPT WITHOUT BEING TOO SPECIFIC ON ITS FORA.

2. IN THIS CONNECTION YOU SHOULD BE AWARE THAT THE
FOOD CORPS CONCEPT IS THE SUBJECT OF CONSIDERABLE
DISCUSSION HERE IN WASHINGTON. SUPPORTIVE OF THE
IDEA, MANY HAVE RAISED QUESTIONS, E.G.,
PETER BOURNE AND PARTS OF AID, S/P AND ELSEWHERE.
OMB AND NSC ARE ALSO CONCERNED THAT THIS IDEA NOT
BE PRESENTED IN SUCH A WAY AS TO COMMIT THE UNITED STATES
EXPLICITLY OR IMPLICITLY SOME FUTURE EXPENDITURE, SINCE

SUCH FUTURE COMMITMENTS NOW REQUIRE PRESIDENTIAL APPROVAL.

3. GOOD LUCK IN THE SPEECH, AND HAVE A GOOD TRIP.

4. ACTION USUN: PLEASE ENSURE THAT AMBASSADOR YOUNG HAS A COPY OF THE SPEECH SO HE MAY WORK ON IT EN ROUTE.

BEGIN TEXT:

GOOD MORNING,

IT IS INDEED A PLEASURE TO BE IN ROME THIS MORNING TO TALK WITH YOU ABOUT FOOD, AGRICULTURE AND OUR EFFORTS TO WORK TOGETHER TO BUILD A BETTER LIFE FOR ALL OF OUR FELLOW HUMAN BEINGS. AFTER THE DISCUSSIONS OF ARMS, DESTRUCTION, AND DESPAIR WHICH SO OFTEN GRIPS US IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL, HERE NOW WE ARE GATHERED TO TALK OF HOPE AND LIFE. AFTER ALL, THE WORD AGRICULTURE ITSELF CONNOTES A PROCESS OF GROWTH AND REBIRTH EACH YEAR. WE CONSTANTLY HAVE A CHANCE TO DO BETTER, AND
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SO WE MUST. FOR WE MUST NOT FORGET THAT WITHOUT FOOD, THERE CAN BE NO PEACE.

AMERICA HAS ITS ROOTS DEEP IN AGRICULTURE. OUR GREATNESS, OUR FAILURES, OUR JOYS AND OUR AGONIES DERIVE IN LARGE PART FROM THESE ROOTS.

THOMAS JEFFERSON WAS A DEMOCRAT, A HUMANIST AND A FARMER. HIS ROLE IN THE BIRTH OF OUR COUNTRY AND IN THE DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS DERIVE FROM HIS AGRARIAN BACKGROUND AND PHILOSOPHY.

AMERICAN FARMERS PLAYED A VITAL ROLE IN EXPANDING THE FRONTIERS WESTWARD. THEIR DETERMINATION, THEIR COURAGE AND THEIR INDIVIDUALISM RISE FROM THEIR CLOSENESS TO AND LOVE FOR THE LAND. AMERICA'S COMMITMENT TO HUMAN RIGHTS AND INDIVIDUAL LIBERTY OWES MUCH TO THESE AGRICULTURAL PIONEERS.

OUR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN THE PAST AND OUR PROSPERITY TODAY IS BASED IN LARGE PART ON OUR AGRICULTURAL ABUNDANCE. WHILE ONLY A TINY FRACTION OF OUR LABOR FORCE REMAINS IN AGRICULTURE MUCH OF OUR INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION CAPABILITY AND OUR EXPORT POTENTIAL WOULD NOT EXIST WITHOUT AGRICULTURE.

PRESIDENT CARTER IS A FARMER. HIS FARM WAS NOT RUN BY A CORPORATION, IT WAS FAMILY RUN. HIS HANDS AND HIS FEET KNOW WELL THE RED DIRT OF GEORGIA.

OUR BACKGROUND AND OUR PHILOSOPHY, OUR LEADERS AND OUR PEOPLE, MAKE THE UNITED STATES A STRONG SUPPORTER OF AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT. WE BELIEVE THAT INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IS NECESSARY IF THE WORLD'S PROBLEMS IN FOOD, NUTRITION AND AGRICULTURE ARE EVER TO BE RESOLVED.

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BUT WE KNOW FULL WELL ALSO THAT GREAT MISTAKES CAN BE MADE IN AGRICULTURE. COMING FROM THE SOUTHERN PART OF THE UNITED STATES, I AM PAINFULLY AWARE THAT THE ORGANIZATION OF AGRICULTURE CAN BE AN INSTRUMENT OF REPRESSION AND HUMAN BONDAGE. THE COLONIAL SYSTEM OF AGRICULTURE IN OUR SOUTH WAS BASED ON CHEAP SLAVE LABOR. EVEN AFTER THE CIVIL WAR MANY ELEMENTS OF THIS SYSTEM REMAINED.

INDUSTRIALIZATION TRANSFORMED THE SOUTH, ITS LABOR MARKETS, ITS ECONOMIC STRUCTURE AND ITS SOCIAL ORGANIZATION. INDUSTRIALIZATION ATTRACTED THE POOR FARMERS -- BLACK AND WHITE -- OFF THE LAND WHERE THEY COULD BARELY SCRATCH A LIVING. INDUSTRIALIZATION GENERATED A DEMAND FOR SKILLED AND EDUCATED LABOR. THE BLACKS OF OUR SOUTH COULD NO LONGER BE HELD DOWN TO FUEL THE PROFITS OF ABSENTEE LANDLORDS. THEY HAD TO BECOME EDUCATED, TRAINED, AND PROUD IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE IN THE INDUSTRIALIZATION PROCESS.

THE EXPERIENCE OF THE SOUTHERN UNITED STATES HAS TAUGHT US A LESSON. AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT CAN ONLY SUCCEED IN THE LONG RUN IF THE RIGHTS TO LAND AND THE SOCIAL ORGANIZATION THAT SUPPORTS AGRICULTURE PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION ARE FAIR AND JUST.

WE MUST REORIENT OUR THINKING TOWARD THE LAND AND TO THE NEEDS OF THOSE WHO LABOR ON THE LAND. FARMERS NEED MOTIVATION TO DO THEIR JOBS. THE WORK MUST PAY. THE LIFE MUST BE BEARABLE. IF PEOPLE ARE TO FIND LIVING IN THE RURAL AREAS ATTRACTIVE, THEN LEADERS NEED TO ADOPT POLICIES THAT MAKE THOSE AREAS INVITING, AND SEE TO IT THAT THE TOTAL RURAL ENVIRONMENT SATISFIES. THE PUBLIC CAN PUSH FOR THIS. MANY
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AMERICANS BELIEVE NOW THAT THEY CAN BEST INFLUENCE

NATIONAL POLICY BY CONTROLLING THEIR NEIGHBORHOOD COMMUNITY. OTHERS ARE RETURNING TO THE LAND, IN SEARCH OF A BETTER WAY TO LIVE.

OUR EXPERIENCE HAS TAUGHT US ALSO THAT MANY OF OUR URBAN PROBLEMS HAVE RURAL ORIGINS: FOR EXAMPLE, WHERE AGRICULTURE IS NEGLECTED BY PUBLIC OFFICIALS TO THE POINT THAT PEOPLE ABANDON THE LAND AND GO TO THE CITIES TO SEEK A BETTER LIFE. YET IN THE CITIES, LIFE IS NOT NECESSARILY BETTER.

FOOD IS AND ALWAYS HAS BEEN TOP-LEVEL POLITICS IN MY COUNTRY AND, I SUSPECT, IT HAS BEEN AND IS IN YOURS. HOW MANY TIMES POLITICAL LEADERS WOULD HAVE DONE BETTER TO CHOOSE A FULL GRANARY THAN A FULL ARSENAL, TO PREVENT VIOLENCE AND DISRUPTION.

FOOD AND HUNGER ARE NOW VERY MUCH A PART OF THE INTERNATIONAL DEBATE BETWEEN WHAT WE CALL THE NORTH AND THE SOUTH. IN THE PAST, MONARCHS, PRESIDENTS, PRIME MINISTERS AND GENERALS HAVE RISEN OR FALLEN WITH THE FLUCTUATIONS OF STAPLE FOOD PRICES. HUNGER KNOWS NO HOMELAND; IT VIOLATES BORDERS, IMPELS MIGRATIONS, ALIENATES OTHERWISE LOYAL CITIZENS. HUNGER IS SAID TO BE A PROBLEM OF THE POOR, BUT THE HUNGRY POOR, IN THEIR ANGER AND FRUSTRATION, CAN PULL DOWN THE RICH AND POWERFUL.

FOOD IS A RIGHT.

FOOD IS A POLITICAL RIGHT. OUR OWN POSITIONS AS LEADERS DEPEND ON GUARANTEEING THIS RIGHT. MANY OF US BEGAN OUR CAREERS WITH SLIM WAISTLINES AND GOOD INTENTIONS. NOW WE ARE PART OF A PRIVILEGED GROUP, CIRCLING THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GROANING TABLES OF INTERNATIONAL DIPLOMACY. IT IS THEREFORE INCUMBENT ON US TO STAY AWARE: THERE IS HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION, IN MY OWN COUNTRY, IN OTHER LANDS; IT CAN COME UPON US SWIFTLY.

I GREW UP IN THE TRADITION OF CIVIL RIGHTS STRUGGLES TO AFFIRM POPULAR RIGHTS. IN THE U.S. CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT, WE USED TO ASK, "WHAT GOOD IS IT TO HAVE THE RIGHT TO EAT AT AN INTEGRATED LUNCH COUNTER, IF YOU CAN'T PAY THE BILL?" WE KNEW WE HAD TO DESEGREGATE PUBLIC ACCOMMODATIONS; WE ALSO KNEW WE HAD TO CONFRONT THE ECONOMIC BARRIERS TO UNIVERSAL HUMAN RIGHTS.

WHAT MORE BASIC RIGHT COULD THERE BE THAN THE RIGHT TO

FOOD? IT UNDERPINS ALL OTHER HUMAN RIGHTS, FOR WITHOUT
FOOD THERE IS NO HUMANITY, EITHER OF BODY OR SPIRIT.
HUNGER NOT ONLY SAPS VITALITY, IT VIOLATES HUMAN
DIGNITY.

THOUGH MANY OF US LIVE WITH ABUNDANCE, WE ARE ALL
AWARE HOW PERVASIVE HUNGER IS. IN THE AFRICAN SAHEL
EVEN NOW RAINFALL AND CROPS ARE UNCERTAIN AND THE
SITUATION GROWS MORE OMINOUS DAILY. IN THE
UNITED STATES TOO, THERE HAVE BEEN SERIOUS DROUGHTS
IN THE WEST AND SOUTH. ELSEWHERE, IN THE MIDST OF
NATURAL OR POLITICAL UPHEAVALS, FARMERS DO NOT PLANT.
ALTHOUGH MOST OF THE WORLD'S GRANARIES ARE OVERFLOWING
TODAY, THEY MAY NOT BE TOMORROW. EVEN IN THE MIDST
OF PLENTY, DROUGHT AND FAMINE ARE STILL WITH US.
EXPERTS TELL US THAT A REASONABLE ESTIMATE OF THE
NUMBER WHO ARE UNDERNOURISHED IN OUR WORLD IS FIVE
HUNDRED MILLION. WE KNOW THAT MANY GOVERNMENTS ARE
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HARD PRESSED TO RAISE THE MONEY TO PAY FOR BADLY
NEEDED FOOD IMPORTS.

TODAY, IN A PERIOD OF RELATIVE PLENTY, IT IS ESSENTIAL
TO WORK TOWARDS GUARANTEES OF THE RIGHT TO FOOD FOR
THE WORLD'S POPULATION. IT IS TIME TO TAKE STOCK AND
PLAN AGAINST FUTURE FAMINES.

BILLIONS HAVE GONE INTO FOOD RELIEF IN RECENT YEARS;
BUT RELIEF ENDS ONLY TODAY'S HUNGER; IT DOES NOTHING
FOR THE LONG TERM- THE ULTIMATE GOAL IS TOTAL
FOOD SECURITY. WE HAVE THE OBLIGATION NOW TO PLAN
PREVENTIVE MEASURES IN BOTH MARKETING AND PRODUCTION
THAT MAY OBIVIATE THE EMERGENCY SACKS OF GRAIN AND
HELP PEOPLE DEVISE WAYS TO FEED THEMSELVES.

HUNGER AND POVERTY.

HUNGER IS PRIMARILY A PROBLEM OF THE POOR AND THE
POWERLESS. THE RICH SOMEHOW MANAGE TO GET ENOUGH TO
EAT. FOOD IS NOT THE ONLY PROBLEM OF THE NOMADS IN
THE SAHEL, THE MISERIES OF THOSE SLEEPING IN THE
OVERCROWDED STREETS OF CALCUTTA, OR OF THE HUNGRY IN
HAITI. POVERTY IS A COMPLEX OF DEPRIVATIONS. ONLY ONE
OF WHICH IS HUNGER. BUT OF ALL THE MISFORTUNES THAT
AFFLICT THIS PLANET, SURELY RELIEF OF HUNGER IS THE
MOST ESSENTIAL.

OUR ANCESTORS WERE FAR MORE AT THE MERCY OF NATURAL
THREATS TO FOOD PRODUCTION -- DROUGHT, PESTILENCE,
FLOODS AND DISEASE -- THAN WE NEED BE. WE POSSESS MANY

TECHNIQUES FOR SOLVING THE PROBLEMS OF WORLD HUNGER AND
MALNUTRITION. TODAY HUNGER NEED NOT BE INEVITABLE.
THE WORLD CAN PRODUCE ENOUGH FOOD FOR ALL, WITHIN OUR
LIFETIME, THANKS TO THE ADVANCES THROUGHOUT THE AGES,
INCLUDING THE PLOW. PRODUCTION, HOWEVER, IS ONLY ONE
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SIDE OF THE COIN. THE OTHER IS DISTRIBUTION. WHO
WILL PRODUCE MORE AND FOR WHOSE BENEFIT? WHY IS FOOD
DISTRIBUTED SO UNEVENLY?

IN ATTACKING PROBLEMS OF HUNGER AND POVERTY, WE NEED
PAY SPECIAL ATTENTION TO THE RURAL POOR. ONE WAY TO
HELP THE RURAL POOR IS TO INCREASE THEIR SELF-
SUFFICIENCY. THERE ARE MANY RURAL POOR WHO CANNOT PAY
FOR IMPORTED FOOD AND WHO LIVE ON MARGINAL LANDS IN
FRAGILE ENVIRONMENTS. FOR A VARIETY OF REASONS THEY
ARE UNABLE TO GROW ENOUGH FOOD, DRAW ENOUGH WATER AND
PLANT ENOUGH GROUND COVER TO SUBSIST. MY CHINESE
FRIENDS SAY, "IT IS GOOD TO GIVE A FISH TO A HUNGRY
MAN. IT IS BETTER STILL TO HELP HIM FISH FOR HIMSELF."

SELF-RELIANCE, HOWEVER, IS ONLY A PART OF THE ANSWER.
IN FOOD, THE WORLD IS INTERDEPENDENT. OUR COMMON TASK --
TO ORGANIZE THIS INTERDEPENDENCE FAIRLY -- IS UNFINISHED.
MANY PEOPLE FEEL HELPLESS AND ANGRY BEFORE THE
FLUCTUATIONS IN WORLD FOOD PRICES, THE INSUFFICIENCIES
IN THE PRESENT GRAIN RESERVE PATTERN, THE VAGARIES OF
MARKETING, THE DIFFICULTIES IN ESTABLISHING GRAIN
RESERVES, THE SCARCITIES OF CAPITAL FOR INVESTMENT.
EVEN MINIMAL GLOBAL EMERGENCY FOOD RESERVES FALL SHORT
OF WHAT MANY CONSIDER SUFFICIENT. THE POOR NATIONS
EXPECT A GENUINE REENFORCED EFFORT FROM THE RICHER
NATIONS.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

WE MUST RENEW DOMESTIC EFFORTS TO IMPLEMENT THE AGRARIAN
REFORMS NECESSARY TO FEED THE POOR. HARD POLITICAL
CHOICES HAVE TO BE MADE. LET US TERMINATE (1) LAND
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TENURE POLICIES WHICH RESULT IN UNFAIR DISTRIBUTION OF
THE FRUITS OF THE LAND AND INEFFICIENT PRODUCTION;
(2) CREDIT FACILITIES THAT BENEFIT THE RICH FARMERS
AND IGNORE THE SMALL AND MEDIUM SIZED ENTREPRENEURS;
(3) PRICING POLICIES WHICH DENY LOW-INCOME FARMERS A
FAIR RETURN ON THEIR PRODUCTION OR PLACE A

DISPROPORTIONATE TAX BURDEN ON THEM; (4) DISTRIBUTION POLICIES WHICH IMPEDE THE FREE FLOW OF VITAL FOODSTUFFS FROM AREAS OF ABUNDANCE TO AREAS OF NEED, EVEN IN THE MIDST OF FAMINE; (5) POPULATION POLICIES THAT FAIL TO ENSURE COUPLES THE RIGHT TO DETERMINE THE NUMBER AND SPACING OF BIRTHS.

OBVIOUSLY EACH NATION SHOULD INSURE THAT IT IS CONSCIENTIOUSLY FOLLOWING POLICIES DESIGNED TO HELP THE POOR TO ACHIEVE THEIR RIGHT TO FOOD. HOWEVER, THE COMMUNITY OF NATIONS COLLECTIVELY HAS A RESPONSIBILITY TO COOPERATE TO IMPROVE THE INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE FOR EFFICIENT PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTIONS AND ELIMINATION OF HUNGER AND POVERTY:

-- BY A SUBSTANTIAL AND EFFECTIVE INCREASE IN RESOURCES TRANSFER DEVOTED TO THE PROBLEMS OF HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION;

-- BY AN ACCELERATED TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY AND KNOWHOW WITH CAREFUL ADAPTATION TO LOCAL CIRCUMSTANCES;

-- BY AN IMPROVEMENT IN THE INTERNATIONAL MARKET FOR FOOD, REDUCING THE CYCLE OF SCARCITY AND PLENTY OF HIGH PRICES THAT TAKE FOOD FROM HUNGRY MOUTHS AND LOW PRICES THAT RUIN FARMS FINANCIALLY AND DESTROY THEIR ACCESS TO CREDIT.

THE RICHER NATIONS HAVE DONE FAR LESS THAN THEY MIGHT TO HELP THEIR POORER NEIGHBORS THROUGH RESOURCE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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TRANSFERS AND TECHNOLOGICAL ASSISTANCE. GOVERNMENTS ARE SUPPORTED BY CONSTITUENCIES WITHIN THEIR OWN BORDERS, WHO OFTEN NEITHER KNOW OF NOR CARE ABOUT PROBLEMS IN OTHER COUNTRIES. TAXES ARE ALWAYS TOO HIGH, AND THERE IS LITTLE SENTIMENT FOR USING THEM ON PROJECTS WHOSE BENEFITS ARE AT BEST FAR AWAY AND INDIRECT. CONSERVATION IS FINE FOR OTHERS, BUT NOT IF IT DEMANDS A CHANGE IN ONE'S OWN STYLE AND PATTERNS OF LIFE. PROTECTIONISM, SUBSIDIZATION OF INEFFICIENT

PRODUCTION AND UNFAIR COMMERCIAL PRACTICES STILL ABOUND. AND YET IF POVERTY IN GENERAL AND THE MALDISTRIBUTION OF THE WORLD'S WEALTH IS TO BE CORRECTED WE NEED THE COURAGE AND WISDOM TO ACCEPT CHANGES, NOT BECAUSE THEY ARE EASY TO ACCOMPLISH BUT BECAUSE WE RECOGNIZE THEIR INNATE JUSTICE.

THE FOOD PRODUCING AND EXPORTING COUNTRIES HAVE A SPECIAL OBLIGATION -- TO HELP ORGANIZE A MORE

EFFECTIVE AND STABLE MARKET FOR FOOD, TO USE THEIR
FOOD ABUNDANCE WISELY FOR THE INTERNATIONAL GOOD, TO
CONTRIBUTE TO AN EFFECTIVE INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM OF
FOOD RESERVES AND TO DISSEMINATE THEIR PRODUCTION
KNOWLEDGE TO ENHANCE FOOD SECURITY FOR ALL.

IN THIS DECADE, THE DEVELOPMENT PLANS OF MANY COUNTRIES
RECEIVED A RUDE SET-BACK FROM RISING OIL PRICES. MANY
NATIONS HAVE ALSO EXPERIENCED HONOR. WE HAVE GIVEN TOO MUCH
THOUGHT TO OIL, AND NOT ENOUGH TO AGRICULTURE. TREATED
WELL, THE LAND IS AN INEXHAUSTIBLE RESOURCES, NOT A
DEPLETABLE ONE LIKE OIL. RENEWING ITSELF EVERY GROWING
SEASON, THE LAND CAN PROTECT US FROM THE WORST TERRORS
OF WANT. IT IS UP TO US, THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY
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OF NATIONS, TO BEHAVE RESPONSIBLY, USING OUR RESOURCES
WELL AND EFFECTIVELY FOR THE GOOD OF ALL.

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.

ROME IS CALLED THE ETERNAL CITY. IT IS ALSO THE CITY
OF OUR SUSTENANCE.

THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL ORGANIZATION HERE IN ROME
HAS BEEN A VITAL FORCE FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION
IN AGRICULTURE SINCE 1945. IT IS DESERVING OF OUR
SUPPORT AND CLOSE ATTENTION. IT IS OUR ORGANIZATION
AND WE HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY TO MAKE IT AN INCREASINGLY
EFFECTIVE FORCE IN WORLD AGRICULTURE.

THE FAO'S WORLD FOOD PROGRAM IS AN INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT
CHANNEL FOR FOOD AID. THE CONCEPT OF FOOD FOR WORK,
PIONEERED BY THE WFP, CAN BE EXPANDED INTO ONE
INCREASINGLY DEVELOPMENTAL TOOL.

SINCE THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE, TWO NEW ORGANIZATIONS
HAVE BEEN ADDED TO THE ROME COMPLEX -- THE WORLD FOOD
COUNCIL AND THE INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL
DEVELOPMENT.

I VISITED ROME LAST SUMMER TO LEARN ABOUT THESE
ORGANIZATIONS. I LIKED WHAT I HEARD. THE WORK THEY
ARE DOING IS IMPORTANT. THEY MUST WORK COOPERATIVELY
IF THEY ARE TO WORK AT ALL. AND THEY NEED THE INCREASING
SUPPORT OF OTHER INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT INSTITU-
TIONS -- THE UNDP, THE WORLD BANK, AND THE REGIONAL
DEVELOPMENT BANKS -- IF THEY ARE TO ACCOMPLISH THEIR
TASK TO MEET BASIC HUMAN NEEDS FOR FOOD AND NUTRITION.

I HOPE THAT THIS CONFERENCE IN ITS DELIBERATIONS WILL

BE ABLE TO BEGIN TO STRENGTHEN THE INTERNATIONAL
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INSTITUTIONS IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE. I HAVE TRIED
TO AVOID SPECIFIC COMMENTS ON THE MANY IMPORTANT
ISSUES WHICH ARE BEFORE YOU. HOWEVER, I WOULD LIKE
TO OFFER ONE SUGGESTION FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION.

IT MAY BE POSSIBLE TO COMBINE VOLUNTEER SERVICES WITH
THE BEST IDEAS FOR ACHIEVING EFFICIENT, LOW-COST
AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION.
THERE ARE QUALIFIED YOUNG PEOPLE IN MANY COUNTRIES
WHO WOULD WELCOME THE OPPORTUNITY FOR MEANINGFUL
SERVICE. VOLUNTEERS HAVE MANY STRENGTHS: THEY ARE
DEDICATED, THEY ARE WILLING TO SERVE UNDER ADVERSE
CONDITIONS, AND THEY ARE OFTEN ABLE TO PRODUCE CREATIVE
AND PRAGMATIC SOLUTIONS.

PROJECT DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION FOR THE RURAL SECTOR
TODAY ARE BECOMING INCREASINGLY COMPLEX. THEY REQUIRE
DEDICATED AND TRAINED MANPOWER. MANY RURAL PROJECTS
DO NOT REQUIRE THE HIGH LEVEL OF TECHNICAL AND MANAGEMENT
EXPERTISE NORMALLY ASSOCIATED WITH CAPITAL INTENSIVE
PROJECTS AND COULD BE CARRIED OUT PERFECTLY WELL BY
RELATIVELY YOUNG BUT COMMITTED INDIVIDUALS SUCH AS
ONE WOULD EXPECT TO ATTRACT BY THE NOTION OF A VOLUNTEER
FOOD CORPS SERVICE.

HOW VOLUNTEERS COULD HELP THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS, HOW
THEY MIGHT PROMOTE GREATER LOCAL SELF-RELIANCE, HOW THEY
COULD HELP US WIN THE STRUGGLE AGAINST HUNGER AND
MALNUTRITION, PERHAPS THESE ARE SUBJECTS WHICH MEMBERS
OF FAO MIGHT WISH TO EXAMINE. THERE ARE NO SIMPLE
ANSWERS TO THE MANY PROBLEMS WHICH FACE US. BUT WORKING
TOGETHER ON NEW APPROACHES AND NEW IDEAS CAN REFRESH
OUR DIALOGUE, GIVE US STRENGTH TO SOLVE CONFLICTS
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AMONG OURSELVES, AND RENEW OUR DEDICATION TO GET ON
WITH THE IMPORTANT WORK WE HAVE AT HAND.

THE MOST BASIC HUMAN NEED IS FOR A FILLED BREAD BASKET,
A BOWL OF RICE, OR MILLET, AND FOR THE BALANCING
NUTRIENTS OF GREENS, PROTEIN, FRUIT AND MILK. OUR
LARGER OBJECTIVE IS TO CREATE A GLOBAL FOOD SYSTEM,
INTEGRATED ENOUGH TO MEET EVERYONE'S NEEDS FOR ADEQUATE
NUTRITION, FLEXIBLE ENOUGH TO RESPOND TO THE RAPIDLY
CHANGING CONDITIONS IN AGRICULTURE, AND YET PRODUCING

AN ABSOLUTE INCREASE IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF FOOD SO
THAT THERE IS ENOUGH TO GO AROUND.

WE HAVE WORK TO DO, TOGETHER. JULIUS NYERERE MADE THE
POINT AFTER THE ARUSHA DECLARATION, "IF TEN HUNTERS
HAVE TRAPPED A RABBIT THEY ARE FOOLISH IDIOTS, WASTING
THEIR ENERGIES, IF THEY STOP THEIR HUNTING
IN ORDER TO FIGHT OVER THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE MEAT
ON THAT RABBIT. THEY WOULD DO BETTER TO CONCENTRATE
THEIR ENERGIES ON WORKING OUT A BETTER SYSTEM OF
HUNTING SO THAT THEY CAN INCREASE THE AMOUNT OF MEAT
AVAILABLE TO ALL."

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 22-Sep-1999 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 12-Nov-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE272028
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: IO:CRFRANK
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Expiration:
Film Number: D770420-0175
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t197711116/baaaeuia.tel
Line Count: 506
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 303e1a10-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 10
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 427082
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FAO MCDONGALL LECTURE
TAGS: OCON, FAO
To: ROME NIACT INFO USUN N Y
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/303e1a10-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009